

October 27, 2018

Dear ARDC:

I request that you consider opening an investigation into attorney Terry Ekl's conduct. On March 3, 2018, I spoke with the FBI in Chicago for 35 minutes and they strongly encouraged me to go to the police and to reach out to you about Mr. Ekl's conduct and they provided me with your contact information.

On November 30, 2017, I learned that Mr. Ekl had been hired to represent Bill Voge, the former Chair and Managing Partner of Latham and Watkins, which is a prestigious international law firm. I'd like to give you some background information about my dispute with Bill Voge to help you understand why I was threatened by Mr. Ekl.

In May 2017, I began protesting against The New Canaan Society (NCS), which is an all male Christian Non Profit Organization based in New York. Bill Voge was on the Board of Directors of NCS at the time. In response to my protest, Mr. Voge and other members of the board fired James Lane, the Founder and former CEO of NCS.

After his firing, Mr. Lane began calling me asking if he could come to Chicago to see me in order to apologize-he said it was part of his 12 step program for alcohol and drug addiction. After 10 weeks of communicating with Mr. Lane, I decided I did not feel comfortable meeting with him in person (he had a pending drug case in Vermont for DUI and cocaine possession). Mr. Lane then started reaching out to others to convince me to forgive him. Mr. Ekl's client, Mr. Voge, was one of the people Mr. Lane reached out to.

Mr. Voge then reached out to me claiming he wanted to answer questions I had about conducting a peaceful protest at a NCS location in Chicago. After a couple months of communications, he ended up traveling to Chicago and pleading with me to come have sex with him. When I told Mr. Lane and James Anderson (the new CEO of NCS) what Mr. Voge had done, Mr. Voge hired Terry Ekl to try and shut me up before others found out. I was told by many attorneys that Mr. Ekl committed blackmail, extortion and used coercion in his attempt to cover up his client's misconduct. Some attorneys put their opinions in writing to me. His client was eventually fired for his misconduct and subsequent threats towards me.

On November 30, 2017, Mr. Ekl sent a very intimidating, aggressive and rude man to my door twice in one night with a cease and desist letter filled with false and misleading claims. The first time the man came to my door I was not at home. My daughter told me a man approached our house, didn't bother to ring the doorbell, and started pounding loudly on the door for about 5 minutes scaring her to the point where she ran upstairs to hide. The man returned the second time after dark, pulled into my driveway blocking my car, and started pounding loudly on the door again while yelling that he was looking for Andrea and asking me to open the door. I

asked him to leave my property because he was now scaring all three of my children. I was not going to open the door for a strange man behaving erratically at night. I threatened to call the police and then he claimed he was the police but did not show me any identification and he was dressed in street clothes. I still refused to open the door and he eventually put the letter on the doorstep and left. I called the Naperville Police and found out they had not sent the police to my door.

In the letter, Mr. Ekl makes several false claims on behalf of his client, Bill Voge. First, he accuses me of harassing James Lane earlier in the day and suggested that my harassment of him and others constituted cyberstalking. James Lane had actually requested a phone call from me earlier that same day. We had a very friendly phone call followed up by text exchanges and he had been sending me inspirational quotes through email before and after Mr. Ekl's claim that I harassed him. We had also just talked days before on Thanksgiving Day.

After reading the letter, I got in touch with Mr. Lane's attorney and confirmed that Mr. Lane had not accused me of harassing him. She let me know she had just spoken with Mr. Lane and he stated to her that he wanted to continue speaking with me to resolve our issues. I have enclosed the correspondence between myself and Mr. Lane's attorney that took place through email immediately after Mr. Ekl's letter was delivered. I have also enclosed a letter from Mr. Lane's pastor apologizing for all the pain and suffering Mr. Lane put me through and asking if Mr. Lane could come to Chicago to reconcile with me. That letter was written a month after Mr. Ekl falsely claimed I harassed Mr. Lane.

Second, Mr. Ekl claimed I harassed James Anderson, who is the new CEO of NCS. Mr. Anderson had also requested through email that I meet with him in Chicago and has never accused me of harassment. I have enclosed an email from him. Mr. Ekl put these two men in his letter in an attempt to make me feel ganged up on. Mr. Lane is a wealthy former Goldman Sachs partner and Mr. Anderson is the CEO of a powerful and influential Non Profit. Mr. Ekl attempted to pit me against these two men in order to intimidate me into being quiet about his client's misconduct. I informed Mr. Ekl that he had lied in his letter and then he sent another letter the next day doubling down on the lies.

Third, Mr. Ekl suggested I had committed a class 4 felony and said he was going to promptly file an action against me for cyberstalking. I didn't know this at the time, but the Illinois Supreme Court had struck down the cyberstalking law as unconstitutional prior to Mr. Ekl sending that letter. People who had previously been convicted under that law had their convictions vacated in appellate court (and those defendants had actually been accused of threatening to harm others). According to news articles, Mr. Ekl has asserted that threatening someone with a crime they had not committed in order to scare them violates state law.

On Saturday January 27, 2018, Mr. Ekl started blackmailing me. He emailed me stating that I had until 4pm the following day to enter into an agreement not to complain about his

client to third parties or he would bring both a civil suit and "criminal prosecution" against me on Monday January 29, 2018(is he a prosecutor?).

At the same time that Mr. Ekl was emailing these threats to me, his client, Bill Voge, was sending my husband hundreds of text messages calling me derogatory names and claiming that I had committed multiple felonies and was going to jail the next business day. He said that he was going to personally fly into Chicago to watch me arrested if I didn't agree to Terry Ekl's terms. He then explained what the terms were through text. Mr. Voge wrote:"no more communications to any third parties regarding me in any manner!" He also texted that Mr. Ekl knew he was sending my husband the texts and said Mr. Ekl told him to ask if he should inform me that Mr. Voge was texting my husband. I have enclosed these text messages.

On Sunday January 28, 2018, I told Mr. Ekl I could agree to some of his terms but I didn't think reporting his client to the press or police was somehow criminal. Mr. Ekl responded that he wanted to be clear that I "must agree to engage in no further oral or written communication of any kind regarding Bill Voge." (What happened to free speech?) I was bewildered by his response because if the dispute had truly been about my alleged criminal behavior(cyberstalking) then I would think they would have welcomed the idea of me going to the police.

Because it was the weekend, I could not get in touch with an attorney so I would eventually succumb to their threats. I didn't think private citizens could threaten criminal prosecution and imminent arrest, but they were powerful attorneys who had put those threats in writing.

On Monday January 29, 2018, Mr. Ekl went so far as to email me that I had to get permission from him first before even talking with a pastor or therapist about his client. While I understood why Mr. Ekl didn't want anyone to know about his client's unbelievable behavior, conversations with pastors and therapists are confidential. That same day, Mr. Ekl's client ended up calling the pastor I was talking with and asked the pastor to reiterate the message that I was going to jail if I ever mentioned his name again.

In the weeks that followed, I started speaking with attorneys and found out the agreement I had entered into was not valid because it had been coerced. Was told in writing by one attorney that I had been blackmailed. I was also told by another attorney in writing that it is unethical to threaten to report a crime in order to gain an advantage in a civil matter.

After finding out the agreement had been coerced, I spoke with the FBI on March 3, 2018.Mr. Voge had been threatening me and other members of my family and Mr. Ekl had said I couldn't go to the police-so I went to the FBI. After speaking with them, I felt confident enough that I could break the coerced agreement I made with Ekl and report Mr. Voge to the General Counsel at his law firm.

On March 6, 2018, Mr. Ekl started threatening me again through email after he learned that I had reported his clients threats. He said I had violated the agreement and now had two choices: another agreement or legal proceedings. I explained to him that the agreement was not valid and I had every right to report his client. Mr. Ekl would continue to email me threatening to take action. I started exhibiting physical symptoms from the stress of the ongoing dispute and gave into their threats again. I agreed to sign a NDA in exchange for not having legal proceedings brought against me.

On March 11, 2018 Mr. Ekl drafted the NDA. The following day I forwarded the NDA to attorney Peter Storm for him to review it and he told me not to sign it. He suggested I go to a Civil Rights attorney. He put his advice in an email which I forwarded to Ekl. Mr. Ekl threatened me again and then said his client was offering to pay for me to have a consultation with an attorney and was willing to apologize. I had just had a consultation with an attorney and forwarded him the attorney's advice. In fact, I had had many consultations with many attorneys who all said the same thing: Mr. Ekl and his client were trying to shut me up but I had freedom of speech.

On March 13, 2018 I called defense attorney Michael Cheronis and told him Mr. Ekl had been requesting that I have an attorney call him and threatening me with legal action. The defense attorney said I was not going to jail nor was I going to be sued. He agreed to call and talk with Mr. Ekl.

On March 14th the defense attorney informed me that Mr. Ekl offered \$40,000. \$20,000 would be paid upfront and the remainder would be paid in two years when Mr. Ekl's client retired from his job. He also emailed me that Ekl had called me derogatory names. I was surprised they offered money. I turned down the offer and then asked my husband to email Mr. Ekl and tell him I was not interested in signing a NDA under any circumstances. Mr. Ekl responded to my husband that it was important that I tell my attorney my desires. I emailed my attorney and told him to stop communicating with Ekl but he responded saying Ekl had requested a demand letter and wanted to settle. I told him to stop communicating with Ekl and I blind copied Ekl on the email. Days later, Mr. Ekl's client was fired for his conduct towards me. Mr. Ekl would go on to make additional false claims, this time to the press, stating that I had asked for money and that his client had refused to make any payments.

On May 25, 2018, two months after Mr. Ekl's client was fired, I received a voicemail from my current attorney. He stated to me that Terry Ekl had called him and wanted a meeting with him to discuss my past involvement with Bill Voge and to show him what they had on me. I was deeply troubled that they were back on the scene and initiating contact with me again in what appeared to be an attempt to blackmail me again. I asked my attorney if he had an opinion about why they were requesting a meeting and he said maybe they were looking to revisit the Non Disclosure Agreement talks. He would later tell me they wanted to know what my "endgame" was. I told my attorney that I would never sign a NDA and asked him not to communicate any further with Mr. Ekl.

I would also like to request, if possible, that Mr. Ekl never reach out to anyone representing me ever again. I want no direct or indirect contact with him.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Andrea Vassell